Volume 16, Edition 5 May 2012

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

Once again a big thanks for all who helped with this year's Hamfest. I think it was one of the best ever. We sold over 100 breakfasts and it looked like the parking lot was full of vendors. We also did very well selling the stuff from John Sharpe.

I am off to the midwest so look for me on 14270KHZ as I plan to set up a station when I can. I got one of the antennas that Ed showed off at the March meeting and it seems to load up fine on 20, 15 and ten meters. You can also look up my APRS track on the Internet. Looking forward to our next big event, Field Day on June 23, 24.

—73 Jim K6UUW

VE Results at Hamfest

Results at the Hamfest on April 28 included the passing of the Technician level test by all five candidates and three of the five candidates passing the Extra class test, including our own member, Gordon Kirby. Our next test session will be scheduled for June 30 at McDougal Hall, Eldridge, beginning at 10 A.M. I wish to thank the VE team of Ken W6HF, Luci KL1WE, Alan K6KLL, Rich KO6FR, Brian N6IIY and Sharon AA6XZ, most of whom are non-VOMARC members who volunteered their time so that our members could take part in other aspects of the Hamfest.

—San N7PIB

Minutes for April 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order by the Honorable President, Jim Hill, K6UUW at 7:37 PM on April 18, 2012.

Introductions There were 11 members in attendance, KD6FIL (Dave), KG6N (Frank), W1EJ (Ed) WD6BOR (Darrel), N6KM (Ken), K6KLL (Alan), N7PIB (San), KJ6DPZ (Desmond), WB6NOV (Ken), KF6FFM (Dean)and last but not least K6UUW (Jim)

Approval of Minutes: There were approved with no corrections.

Vice President: Nothing to announce.

Secretary: We have the approval from SDC to use Camp VIA.

Treasurer: We still have $2007.26 in the bank. **Dues for next year are due.**

ACS: The ACS Radio Officer, Ken Harrison is resigning effective the end of April. The packet station on Sonoma Mtn is being rehab'd and should be up and running soon. There is an ACS activity scheduled for Thursday, June 14, to go to the fire stations and meet the fire personnel..

Website: We need to update the Net Control.

Newsletter: We need to update the VE liason in the newsletter to N7PIB. The VE sessions are tentatively scheduled for the 5th Saturday in June (30th) and September (29th). Need to confirm SDC availability.

Old Business

Young Eagles is back to the second Sunday in May (13th). The program is put on by the EAA Chapter at the Sky Park to increase interest for flying in kids from 8 to 17. It is always the second Sunday of the month, weather permitting.

The tour of the Two Rock Coast Guard Base is scheduled for May 4th.

Joan, W6WXU is not doing well and a card was passed around for people to sign.

Declan, KA2QQO, cracked his kneecaps and will be slowed up for a bit.

Field Day will be at Camp Via again this year .

New Business
The Amgen Tour on May 13 is looking for volunteers. Contact K6XLT at sonic.net.

The Sharp family donated John's equipment to the club. We will need a work day to take down the tower. We need to send them a thank you card.

Hamfest: There is a new Facilities Manager and we are working with County Parks. The club paid an additional $30 to be able to get in on Friday afternoon to put up antennas and load the food in the refrigerator. Assignments were made for Registration, Club Swap table, Kitchen staff and demonstration stations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PMish

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

Mailing lists, blogs, and podcasts are good sources of ham info

—Dan KB6NU

Whether you're a newcomer or an old-timer, the Internet is possibly the best way to learn as much as you can about amateur radio. On the Internet, you'll find many, many ham radio mailing lists, podcasts, and videos. In essence, these resources give you access to hundreds, if not thousands, of Elmers.

One mailing list that I always suggest to new hams is the HamRadioHelpGroup (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HamRadioHelpGroup). The purpose of this group is to help "those who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or upgrading their license." This mailing list has a good mix of beginners and experts, and most questions are answered quickly and correctly. One thing that I really like about this group is that the moderators do a good job of keeping the discussions on track, and will squelch them when they stray off topic or threaten to turn into flame wars.

In addition to the HamRadioHelpGroup, you might also want to join a more targeted mailing list. For example, if you're interested in learning Morse Code (hint, hint), you might join the SolidCpyCW list (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SolidCpyCW/). If you just bought a Yaesu FT-60 hand-held transceiver, you might want to join the FT-60 list (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FT-60/). Chances are that no matter what your interest, there's probably a mailing list to discuss that interest.

I'm subscribed to a lot of amateur radio mailing lists and could probably spend most of my day just reading and replying to them. In order to get the most out of them, without them taking away from my on-air time, I only read those threads that I am really interested in, and even then, I quit reading them once they have started to drift off-topic. I also un-subscribe myself from lists that cover topics that I'm no longer interested in.

Blogs, podcasts and videos

In addition to getting on a few mailing lists, you might want to read a few blogs and subscribe to podcasts. These are also great sources of information about amateur radio. I blog about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com, and lots of hams find it a good source of information. You can find a list of other ham radio blogs that I'd recommend on my home page.

Podcasts are also a good source of information. One podcast that you might want to check out is the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast (http://www.myamateurradio.com). Since 2008, Jerry, KD0BIK, has been producing PARP, and currently has more than 50 different episodes online.

Finally, there are literally thousands of amateur radio videos on the net. On YouTube alone, there are approximately 32,000 of them. The

American Radio Relay League has its own channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/ARRLHQ), but perhaps the most popular amateur radio video channel is the K7AGE channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/K7AGE). K7AGE has more than 6,200 subscribers and his videos have garnered more than 2.1 million views!

Whatever source or sources of information you select, remember to not let them take up too much of your time. Ham radio is about more than just reading, listening, or watching. It's about doing!

When he's not answering yet another e-mail, Dan blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches ham classes, and ragchews on 30m and 40m CW. You can e-mail him with comments or questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

2012 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	EILEEN	KG6QNT
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JIM	K6UUW
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE	GEORGE	K6ITE
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2012 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ED	WIEJ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	JOAN	W6WXU
APRIL	DAVE	KG6FIL
MAY	FRANK	KG6N
JUNE	ED	W1EJ
JULY		
AUGUST	KEN	N6KM
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE VOMARC WIRELESS
VOLUME 16 EDITION 5

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Ed Jacobson W1EJ – Vice-President,

Dave Dammuller KD6FIL – Secretary

Desmond Kelly, KI6DPZ – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge or the Sonoma Fire Station on 2nd St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: http://www.vomarc.org/

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

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On the Air: Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Test Scheduled for May 12

The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual Military/Amateur Radio Crossband Communications Test in celebration of the 62nd anniversary of Armed Forces Day. Although the actual Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May -- May 19 in 2012 -- the AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test will be conducted on May 12 to prevent a conflict with the Dayton Hamvention®, scheduled for May 18-20. For more info, see

http://www.arrl.org/news/annual-armed-forces-day-crossband-test-scheduled-for-may-12

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WED, MAY 16, AT MC DOUGAL HALL AT THE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER IN ELDRIDGE AT 7:30PM
SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2012 Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name:_____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: $ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date:_____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to Desmond KI6DZP, 416 Claudia Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.
Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**